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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1906.

Policy Holders Should Be on Guard.

In the contest now going on for control of the great insurance companies, the methods employed by their officers to secure their continuance in power savored more of political bossism at its worst than of an honest effort to vindicate their administration of the important trusts committed to them. It is not strange, therefore, that the policy holders' committee, through its manager, should have asked that criminal proceedings be brought against representatives of an insurance company for violation of the new insurance law, the provisions of which contemplate free and untrammeled control of the mutual companies by the policy holders.

The administration tickets bear names of trustees who held their positions during the old regime of extravagance and mismanagement, who were largely responsible for the shocking conditions divulged by the insurance investigation, and who, for that reason, should be retired from office and replaced by men who will conduct the business of the companies with due regard for the interests of policy holders.

To prevent this, every effort is being put forth by the present officers to keep themselves in control. They are accused, apparently with reason, of compelling their agents to solicit votes for the administration ticket; of employing agents, paid out of the company's funds, to elect members of the board; of dismissing agents who refused to work for the administration. President Peabody of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, denies these accusations, but admits that he is carrying on a campaign for re-election and sending out administration tickets at his own expense. The proposed criminal proceedings in New York, if instituted, will reveal the truth about this matter, at least so far as the officers of the New York Life Insurance Company are concerned.

An interesting side light on insurance company methods is afforded by the declaration of Judge George Gray to allow the use of his name as a candidate for trustee on the administration ticket of the Mutual Life. In a letter to Delaware policy holders he says his name was used without his consent, and that he has attempted to have it removed from the ticket, but that the Mutual Life administration has resisted all his efforts to have it taken off. Evidently the intention of the administration was to make use of Judge Gray's honorable name and known probity of character to help out a questionable campaign. Several other names of like honorable character appear on the Mutual Life's administration ticket, but none of them with the consent of the men whom the Mutual officers seek to exploit in their own selfish interests.

Policy holders will do well to be on their guard against the unworthy methods now being employed by the people in control of the insurance companies to keep themselves in power. The policy holders are entitled to a free ballot and a fair count, and they should see that they get both.

School Board and Cordova Case.

The word of criticism which The Herald passed upon the board of education in connection with the dismissal of Principal Cordova appears to have been based on a misapprehension. Instead of departing from the letter of the law, the board observed both its spirit and letter. There is a provision in the new statute that charges affecting the character of a teacher shall be considered in executive session. Therefore there was no alternative. In withdrawing its criticism, The Herald of course stated authoritatively that the board of education believes in open sessions and the fullest possible publicity. Star-chamber methods are of the past.

Prosperity of the Farmer.

That farmers have shared in the national prosperity of the past decade is evident from the facts gathered by the Department of Agriculture from 4,000 correspondents and lately published. These show that the increase in the value of farm lands in the last five years, taking the country as a whole, has been something over 25 per cent. But these figures are far from telling the whole story. A notable advance has taken place in the economic condition of the farmer since the days of the Populist movement. Not only have his lands increased in value, but the prices of his products have been better, his income has been enlarged, and the methods of agriculture so improved as to bring larger returns from a given outlay. A notable example may be found in the South, where a series of profitable crops has led to the abolition of the crop-lien system by which the farmer was perpetually in debt. He is now able to furnish his own capital out of his bettered income.

There is no reason to anticipate any immediate change for the worse in these happy conditions. Mr. Holmes, who compiled the facts for the Agricultural Department, remarks that "farmers now occupy a strong economic position, founded upon the tendency of the consumption of some important products to increase faster than population does, and upon the tendency of the demand for these products to increase faster than the production does, so that with respect to these products the farmer is close upon the heels of production." In that event, Mr. Holmes mentions poultry, fruit, butter, meat, animals, and wheat. It will be a long time before the demand for the best qualities of these products, with the possible exception of wheat, will be overtaken by production. Mr.

Holmes points out the importance of the present ability of the farmer, owing to his improved financial condition, to make his own choice of the crops he shall raise. He is in position, therefore, to select the most remunerative and to keep out of the rut in which many farmers are found.

It is not to be taken for granted, however, that all farmers are making money, or that all farm lands have advanced in price. Certain factors, such as bad weather, the ravages of insects, or the availability of cheaper lands, depress the position of the farmer in particular localities. But in the nation at large prosperity among the farming classes is the rule rather than the exception. It is a situation which every lover of his country may regard, as the party platforms say, with just pride.

Russia's Cheerful Methods.

A famous American poet held up the heathen Chinese as one of the bright and shining examples of methods both childlike and bland. The Russians have been overlooked in this respect. When it comes to making the best of a bad bargain, or turning a cheerful face to the most distressing situation, the Russians can teach many valuable tricks.

Every one remembers how each and all reverses suffered by Gen. Kuropatkin during the war were recognized, and cheerfully proclaimed, as "part of Russia's original plans." No matter how often the Russians went into battle, loaded down with ikons and loaded up with vodka, the outcome, apparently disastrous always, nevertheless became a defeat which Russia wanted. As to Russian enthusiasm, as it emanated from headquarters, are could not wither it nor custom stale its infinite variety.

Now Russia comes to the front and blandly proclaims that the war with Japan was a great victory for the imperial government, and divers and sundry are the benefits said to have been derived therefrom. In fact, Russia hints, if it does not actually say, that the war with Japan was deliberately premeditated and designedly carried through, not for the purpose of whipping Japan, but for the sole and single purpose of stimulating Russian trade throughout Manchuria.

Good for Russia! We like a cheerful loser. We like to see a man who can discover the good that every ill wind blows, and we admire a nation that can perjure itself like a gentleman. We are quite prepared to believe that Russia sent that fleet of war ships to the Sea of Japan, not with the intention of wounding the feelings of Admiral Togo—not at all—but with the intention of making a bluff and making possible a greater field of activity for the needy ship-building concerns. It is quite clear now.

Russia is all right. The calm and philosophical way in which the nation takes its medicine is worthy of emulation.

Deportation of the Negro.

The Charleston News and Courier reverts to its advocacy of the deportation of the negro from this country as a solution of the race problem. It argues in favor of a number of practical questions put to it by the New York Times as to how the deportation should be carried out, the cost of it, and so on, but omits to mention the very serious constitutional questions involved. The News and Courier says: "All of the elements involved in this settlement of the race question have been fully considered." But has the constitutional aspect of the matter been given the consideration it deserves? Inasmuch as the advocates of deportation evidently propose that the national government should bear the expense of it, the question whether the government has the right to deport 10,000,000 citizens is one that certainly needs an answer.

For the negro is a citizen of the United States, and endowed with all the privileges of every other citizen. The News and Courier says he is not a freeman, but he is assuredly a citizen, whether a free man in the same sense as the white man or not. Being a citizen of the United States, upon what legal ground could he be deported? We have never made a practice of deporting our citizens, even when guilty of heinous crimes. In fact, we are always glad to get them back, so that they may be tried and punished. By what sort of legislation, not in violation of the Constitution, could the negro be deprived of his citizenship? Could he be denationalized and then, as an alien, sent out of the country? But even alien, sent out of the country, he would have the rights of citizens to the protection of life, liberty, and property. They cannot be deported unless they have come into the country in defiance of our laws, or unless in time of war they give aid and comfort to the enemy.

How, then, does the News and Courier propose that the negro shall be legally put out of the country? The moral, social, economic, and political reasons adduced in favor of deportation are well known; what are the constitutional grounds upon which deportation may be justified, and what are the constitutional methods by which it may be carried out?

Railroad Rebates.

The conviction of the New York Central Railroad Company on a charge of having given rebates on freight shipped by the sugar trust shows that, while the sugar trust exists, those who engage in it may be brought to account. No one of the admitted evils of railway management has been so effective in the upbuilding of large combinations of capital as the granting of rebates to favored shippers. Upon rebates and other concessions granted by railroads was erected the huge monopoly enjoyed by the Standard Oil Company. The sugar trust is now shown to have enjoyed similar favors, and we have no doubt that many other trusts are in the same boat.

Apologists for the trusts and the railroads justify favors to large shippers on the ground that a heavy tonnage should be given a lower rate. The same principle prevails in business transactions generally, and seldom meets with condemnation, but in the case of common carriers performing quasi-public functions the practice of discriminating between large and small shippers produces economic results detrimental to the public welfare, destroying competition and aiding the growth of monopoly. The government has, therefore, done right in forbidding the practice and insisting on a square deal.

A number of railroad companies have of their own motion stopped the giving of rebates, with satisfaction to themselves and to shippers. That the government has power to deal effectively with offending roads has been brought to account. No one of the evils of the New York Central affords ample proof.

A Texas paper calls loudly for a pumpkin canning factory. Yet it has been said that the pumpkins were working overtime now being made into pure strawberry jelly.

According to a scientist, the perfect human figure ought to be equal in height to the length of ten feet. In that event, ex-President Palma would be about fifteen feet tall.

It is said that Mr. Richard Croker will return to this country and take the helm for Tammany. In his present frame of mind it is a little dangerous, perhaps, to

THE INNOCENT BYSTANDER.

Under the Winkton-Winkton Tree.
Most curious things occur to me,
Most curious things, and queer, indeed—
The wonder of it is there to read.
And often I sit and read the news
And wish that the flies were overhead.

'Tis there that the weeping woe-worms
Make sorrowful speech in abiding times
And say that their cups of woe are full
Of tears, and that they weep and weep,
'O, tell us, we pray,' they weep and weep,
'Why the rabbit may keep his cotton tail.'

'Tis there that the farmer and his good wife
Cut buttered rolls with a butter knife,
And send them along till a burst of gloe
Shows that they are hung on the haw-haw tree.
And the drifting leaves with a hush and a hiss
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Takes up all the little tales that pass
And sends them along till a burst of gloe
Shows that they are hung on the haw-haw tree.
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